Foreign Investment in Power Sector

†184. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 42 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th July, 1996 and state:

(a) what is the total amount of foreign capital investment in the power sector in respect of which agreements have been signed;

(b) what is the number of such agreements for foreign capital investment which have been implemented so far; and

(c) by when the country will be able to generate power commensurate to its demand in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) As on date, 124 proposals on the MoU/LoI etc. route costing more than Rs. 100 crores and on the competitive bidding route costing more than Rs. 1000 Crores, involving a projected investment of Rs. 2,46,472.09 crores have been received for setting up of power projects in the private sector. The foreign capital investment involved will crystallise only after the projects achieve financial closure. As per the information available in the Ministry of Power, 7 of these projects involving a foreign equity investment of US $ 791.97 million have been cleared from foreign investment angle, have received techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and have signed Power Purchase Agreements with the concerned State Electricity Boards. Out of these, the following five projects are under various stages of construction:

Jegurupadu CCGT (M/s. SVK Industries Limited), East Godavari Distt., Andhra Pradesh.	216 MW
Godavari CCGT (M/s. Spectrum Technology) East Godavari Distt., Andhra Pradesh.	208 MW
Dabhol CCGT (M/s. Dabhol Power Company) Distt: Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.	695 MW(Ph-I)
Maheshwar Hydro-electric Project (M/s. Shree Maheshwar Hydel Power Corpn. Ltd.) Distt. Khargone, Madhya Pradesh.	400 MW
Paguthan GBPP (M/s. Gujarat Torrent Energy Corpn. Ltd.) Distt: Bharuch, Gujarat.	655 MW

(c) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has assessed that if a capacity of 55,752 MW is added to the system during the 9th Plan, it would by and large meet the peaking and energy requirements of the country.

Private sector participation in the power transmission and distribution

185. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to invite private sector participation in the power transmission and distribution;

(b) if so, since when and the response of the private sector thereon; and

(c) the steps taken to materialise the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) The existing private power policy allows private sector participation in electricity generation, supply and distribution. The response of the private sector for setting up of generation projects has been encouraging. However, ways and means to facilitate greater private participation in the field of exclusive transmission are under consideration.

Increase in Oil Import Bill

186. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Economic Times of 22nd October, 1996 under the caption "Oil import bill set to exceed estimate, touch $ 9.3 billion";